

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Prior to the initial review of the above-identified patent application on the merits, please enter the following Preliminary Amendment. Please debit any deficiency in fees to Deposit Account No. 19-1970.

**Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.**

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the Listing of Claims beginning on page 4 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 7 of this paper.